

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01237 041247Z

41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 /089 W

----- 122845

P R 041208Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6560

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 1237

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, XF

SUBJ: ASAD COMMENTS DURING ITALIAN TELEVISION INTERVIEW

1. WE WISH TO DRAW ADDRESSEES ATTENTION TO COMMENTS
MADE BY PRES. ASAD DURING ITALIAN TELEVISION INTERVIEW
RELEASED LOCALLY MARCH 3. ASAD'S REMARKS ADDED
NOTHING SUBSTANTIVELY NEW TO SYRIAN POSITION ON ANY
OF SUBJECTS DISCUSSED. MOST SIGNIFICANT WERE (1) HIS
REFUSAL TO PUBLICLY COMMIT SYRIA TO ANY DECISION REGARDING
UNDOF RENEWAL AND (2) REITERATION OF TOUGH LINE AGAINST
EGYPTIAN SIGNING OF SINAI ACCORD. HE STRESSED BY
NOW FAMILIAR ARGUMENTS: SINAI AGREEMENT OBSTRUCTED
"MARCH TOWARD PEACE", GOE SHOULD NOT HAVE RENOUNCED
USE OF FORCE AND PERMITTED ISRAELI GOODS THROUGH
SUEZ CANAL WHILE ISRAEL STILL OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DAMASC 01237 041247Z

EGYPT NOW ISOLATED FROM REST OF "ARAB NATION."

2. ON ENDING STATE OF BELLIGERENCY WITH ISRAEL, ASAD NOTED "THIS ISSUE HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED WITH US AND NO CONTACT BETWEEN US AND ANY (PARTY) HAS BEEN MADE ON THIS SUBJECT". HE CRITICIZED PROCEDURE AS PUTTING LAST THINGS FIRST, AND QUESTIONED WHETHER THIS IDEA SIMPLY "NEW PLOY FOR MOVE AGAINST OUR INTERESTS" AND ANOTHER TITLE FOR RESURRECTION OF STEP-BY-STEP POLICY WHICH, AS HE ASSERTED, SYRIA HAD ALREADY BLOCKED. HE STATED THAT ENDING STATE OF BELLIGERENCY REQUIRES COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967, AND SAFEGUARDING OF LEGITIMATE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS.

3. ASAD DENIED INTERVIEWER'S SUGGESTION THAT SYRIAN MOTIVATION IN LEBANON REFLECTED INTENTION TO ESTABLISH GREATER SYRIA. PRES RECALLED THAT STARTING POINT FOR SYRIAN EFFORTS WAS "COMPLETE VISUALIZATION OF PROBLEM IN ALL ITS DIMENSIONS", FOLLOWED BY "FORMULATION OF PROPOSALS THAT WERE DISCUSSED WITH VARIOUS CONCERNED LEBANESE PARTIES AND AMENDED UNTIL THEY CAME TO CONSTITUTE COMMON DENOMINATORS" AMONG PARTIES. HE ADDED THAT, "WITH REGARD TO THE REALIZATION OF GREATER SYRIA, ONE SHOULD RATHER TALK OF ARAB UNITY. WE BELONG TO AN ARAB NATIONALIST PARTY, BELIEVING IN ARAB UNITY. THIS IS, MOREOVER, OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE...." MURPHY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, PEACE PLANS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC01237
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760082-1074
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760396/aaaadgqx.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <20 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASAD COMMENTS DURING ITALIAN TELEVISION INTERVIEW
TAGS: PFOR, SY, XF, (ASAD, HAFIZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006